

# COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown

61 Durant Terrace – Recreation/Community Service Building

December 1, 2015

6:00 PM

**1. Members Present:** Marty Knight/Chairperson, Marie Hurley, Joe Carta – via conference call, Keith Vinci, Richard Pelletier, Elderrean Paules, August DeFrance, Sky Biney – Youth in Government

**Absent:** Phil Cacciola

**Staff Present:** Deb Stanley – Acting Director, Recreation/Community Services, Karen Nocera, Recreation/Community Services

**General Public:** Paiton Guevarez, Lydia Ottaviano, and Alley Gomberoff.

**2. Meeting Called to Order:** Called to order at 6:05pm.

**3. Public Hearing:**

**4. Approval of Minutes:** *A motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 6, 2015, was made by Ellie Paules and seconded by Keith Vinci. The motion was passed. Richard Pelletier and August DeFrance abstained from voting because they were not present at the October meeting.*

## Departmental Reports:

- August DeFrance stated that there was nothing to report on the Ekersley Hall building committee. Meetings have been cancelled and bills have been paid.
- Marie Hurley passed around the minutes from the Mattabasset project. She was unable to attend meetings because she was gone for a month. There were some concerns about the bidding process. There was only 1 bid that was handed in and it wasn't accepted. The referendum passed. The next meeting is at the end of December. A discussion ensued.
- Richard Pelletier stated that there is activity regarding the boathouse. A discussion ensued.
- Elderrean Paules stated that Monarca Place is at full capacity and that everything is fine. A discussion ensued.
- Karen Nocera wanted to thank the Lion's Club for toys and money towards the annual toy drive through the Recreation & Senior Services Department. The new brochure is coming out on January 1<sup>st</sup>. We start Unified Theatre on January 6<sup>th</sup> with the show being the last week in March. Keith Vinci always helps the kids learn a nice sign language song. The toy drive is in full swing. There are Pictures with Santa this coming Saturday. The Socialize and Paint program will be held next Friday. Keith is starting a new conversational sign language class. There will be a school bus that will take people to see the Cridders performance. The Cridders do an entire Christmas show that is mostly gestures and sign language and it is a wonderful show. All funds support the school for the deaf. A discussion ensued.
- Joe Carta stated that he has a substandard ramp leading into his house. He has having trouble with having it corrected/fixed from the person who installed it. The ramp shakes when he is on it because it is not secure to the ground. Marie will have it checked out. A discussion ensued.
- Keith Vinci stated he has an update about the young man that worked at Stop and Shop and lost his job because someone complained about him. Unfortunately, he will not get his job back because he signed a letter of resignation. Stop and Shop has a policy of the customer is always

right. Keith stated that this committee needs to be a voice for people like this. A discussion ensued.

- Debbie Stanley stated that on the Senior side they are having a very big event. It is called a Holiday/Anniversary Extravaganza. It is an all day party with multiple different activities. The cost is only \$1 and includes all activities as well as breakfast, lunch snack and dinner. A discussion ensued.
- Marty Knight stated that he wanted the people that entered the meeting to introduce themselves. Sky Binney goes to Vinal Technical High School and studies engineering. He is in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Vinal is putting up a new building on site and will be tearing another building down. Lydia Ottaviano introduced herself. She is a junior at Wesleyan University. Ally Gomberoff is a freshman at Wesleyan University. Marty stating that he received 1 item of correspondence. It was from Rick Romano of Public Works. He thanked everyone for bringing to his attention the sidewalk issue on Spring Street. He stated that it has been fixed. A discussion ensued.

### **Old Business**

#### **New Business:**

- Marty asked that a vote be taken regarding the CCPD meeting dates for 2016. There was a motion to accept the meeting schedule as presented by Richard Pelletier and seconded by August DeFrance. The motion carries unanimously.

#### **Miscellaneous:**

- August DeFrance mentioned that there was a tree walk at Indian Hill cemetery. The children learned a great deal during this walk. August wanted to know if the City owned the senior buses. Debbie Stanley stated that the City does own the senior buses. August wants to know if there is a bus that could be purchased by the City so that children can be bused to special events. It is believed that since it pertains to children the issue should be addressed through the Board of Education. A discussion ensued.

**Adjournment:** *A motion of adjournment was made by Elderrean Paules and was seconded by Marie Hurley. The motion carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bruni Runte